

Sorting Guidelines



Discard product if the seal is pierced, not adhered to the edge of the container, or if there is visual evidence of product contamination.



If a container is not vacuum-sealed, a screw cap and seal protects the contents from tampering and physical contamination. Discard the item if there is visual evidence of contamination or if the seal is broken.



If shrink-wrap around the bottles is completely broken, discard the item. If the seal is slightly damaged but shows no evidence of tampering, retain the product.



A paper seal may be glued around the cap and neck of the bottle. If this paper is torn, discard the item.



Check for a vacuum seal that makes the jar airtight. An inward dished lid (usually marked with a printed pop-top indicator) shows the jar has a vacuum seal and is airtight.



Discard jars with a raised center that may or may not spring back right after being depressed. **NOTE:** An item may have both a pop-up indicator and a tamper proof band. If the band is broken and the pop-up seal is intact, the item is acceptable.



Discard glass jars with dents on the lids. This indicates that glass chips may be in the food.

Sorting Guidelines



CREASE

Discard severely damaged cans when the crease is folded onto itself.



DENT

Dispose of cans with dents deeper than a thumb nail or with sharp corners.

Dispose of cans if the dent is so deep it deforms the end of the can causing it to wobble



RUST

Discard any can where rust remains after wiping. The rust will weaken the integrity of the can and may allow contamination.

Sorting Guidelines



SEAL

Dispose of cans with sharp dents on the squeezed lid seams; where the dent extends below the lid's seam and into the side of the can, or if the dent peels back the lid seam or bottom. Cans with a flat dent on a seam no more than 1/4", are acceptable, unless the dent is tipped inward. Pull-top can lids with dents can only be kept if the contents are dried foods with no leakage.



SEAM

Dispose of cans when the crease or dent is over a can seam.



SWOLLEN

Dispose of swollen cans. You can detect a slight amount of swelling by pressing on the end. If the end can be pushed in, contamination may be present.

Sorting Guidelines



The U.S. Fair Packaging and Labeling Act prohibit the distribution of any food item (except fresh fruit and vegetables) without a label. Labels shall contain:

- Common name of the product, for example apple sauce
 - Name and address of manufacturer, packer or distributor
 - Quantity of the contents, for example, 10 oz.
 - Common name of each ingredient, for example, salt or sugar
- * Products with torn labels are acceptable when ALL the above information is legible and complete.
- * If ingredients are missing, as shown in the picture to the left, you must dispose of the product.
- * Many people are on restricted or specialized diets while others may be allergic to individual foods. The ingredients list helps them avoid products that may cause allergic reaction or are life-threatening.

Safe Disposal of Unsafe Products

Care and Share Food Bank recommends that unsafe items be disposed of in a lockable dumpster. If this is not available, open and pour out products or place in a black trash bag to ensure food is not available for consumption.